



## **IDAHO FOREST STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 14, 2010**

Idaho Department of Lands Office  
3284 W. Industrial Loop, Coeur d'Alene  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### **Welcome & Introductions – IFSAC Chair, Oscar Baumhoff presiding**

Chair Oscar Baumhoff asked committee members to review the previous meeting's minutes and solicited questions/clarifications.

A MOTION by Kirk David to accept the Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2009, as written, seconded by Tom Davis, unanimously approved.

### **Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Forestry Assistance Report – Craig Foss** *State Budget Outlook, Update S&PF Program Review*

Craig summarized General Fund holdbacks SFY09-11, reduced staffing at Area and Coeur d'Alene offices, and federal funds received from FFY05 to present. Craig reported IDL is reviewing Forest Practices assessment fees to determine whether they cover the cost of work provided by IDL staff. Craig gave a brief update on the State & Private Forestry Program Review that took place during 2009. Craig asked members to read through the summary of the review, especially Stewardship Issue #3 and its recommendation to "(p)ut together a subcommittee from IFSAC to brainstorm and develop Strategies (and) work with NRCS to assure the programs align and are complementary and work towards a common objective."

Discussion by the committee turned to the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) appointment of a Forestry Subcommittee and ISFAC's involvement. Kirk suggests IFSAC members serving on STAC follow-up with NRCS to make sure this happens.

***Follow-up Item:*** Frank Gariglio will look into minutes from the last STAC meeting; perhaps this can be discussed with Clint Evans during his visit to Lewiston in May, 2010.

Discussion continued regarding Redesign – the focus will be a much broader approach to integrating individual S&PF programs. Ara commented that this is already happening—educational programs and competitive grants are addressing high-priority areas. However, the message about what stewardship is and its relationship to other S&PF programs needs to be more widely communicated.

**State & Private Forestry Report – Dee Sessions**  
***Forest Stewardship Program and 2010 QAI Audit***

Dee Sessions reported that a Quality Assurance Inspection (QAI) will take place in Idaho during the week of June 21, 2010. This four-day process will allow a review team to look at Legacy appraisals.

**Forest Stewardship Program Report – Suzie Jude**  
***LFSPs and EQIP TSP Work***

Suzie Jude reported on Stewardship Program accomplishments to date for FFY2010, as well as EQIP TSP accomplishments for CY2010. Suzie provided information on cost-share funds available through S&PF Forest Health Program to effected landowners in the Ketchum, Idaho area, adjacent to the federal Bald Mountain Douglas-fir Bark Beetle Mitigation Project. Funds available to landowners total \$30,000.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service Update – Frank Gariglio**  
***EQIP TSP Agreement***

EQIP landowner contracts will be signed soon. Frank discussed the EQIP marketing plan, the FMP/LFSP template/process, statewide roundtable meetings held earlier this year, and the need for an EQIP website resource for Idaho foresters and TSPs. Frank noted a glitch with the national economic model where some forestry practices were not included—this is a technical problem and the practices will be added for 2011.

Frank reported on the first Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) sign-up for forestry. The application process involves soliciting information about the various types of conservation practices applicants have on their forestland. Discussion followed regarding IDL's involvement in CSP delivery— only NRCS field staff will conduct inspections to determine eligibility.

Frank also reported on the Healthy Forest Reserve Program. The approach in Idaho is to fund project that don't end up getting funded through the Legacy program. There will be another round of applications for FY2011. HFRP funding is \$10M at national level.

**Idaho Forest Legacy Program Report – Ara Andrea**

Ara filled in for Ed Warner and provided the following updates:

- The 2009 Gold Creek Phase II project, ranked 22 nationally and funded at \$710K, closed January 2010
- The 2009 Trow Creek Project, a donated easement by Donna, Robert and Teresa Standley, has been completed
- The 2010 Bane Creek Neighbors project is proceeding through due-diligence processes
- The McArthur Lake project, ranked #3 nationally, Forest Capital Partners, 3700 acres, due diligence underway
- The 2011 North Idaho Timber Communities-Phase I project, ranked #5 nationally, 3 initial parcels reduced to 2, sponsored by Vital Ground
- The 2012 North Idaho Timber Communities-Phase II project, remaining 4 parcels
- The 2012 Boundary Connections project, Hubbard and Wages families, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, includes Bonner Lake and surrounding farmland, plus an additional 800 acres overlooking Kootenai Valley, next to Bane Creek Neighbors and building connectivity across the Kootenai Valley

## **UI Extension Program Update– Kirk David**

### ***Strengthening Stewardship Skills/Master Forest Steward Program***

Kirk reported that ongoing UI Extension programs are going quite well. There are two new program sessions this year: “Ties to the Land” (succession planning) and “Measuring your Trees” (practical skills geared toward landowners). The Master Forest Steward program is up and the first cadre of volunteers is participating in “payback” time. Kudos to IFSAC members for their support of this program. On June 26, 2010, WSU Extension is offering a forest management plan development class—Kirk has registration forms. Also, Kirk reminded the committee of the Idaho/Washington Family Forest Owners Field Day – June 12, 2010, at Al Kyle’s property off Bunco Road.

## **Idaho Forest Practice Program Update – Ara Andrea**

Ara reviewed the Forest Practices Notification / Hazard Management Agreement form. Ara reviewed commercial-operations notifications on state and private land. Ara explained the difference between a Notice of Violation (NOV) and an Unsatisfactory (conditions) issuance– an NOV generally results in more severe resource degradation. IDWR stream channel operations can now be reviewed and approved by IDL PFSs as a result of an IDWR-IDL MOU. Ara reviewed the 2008 Interagency Quadrennial Water Quality Audit report.

New issues – FPAAC is working on reconstructing riparian rules to meet water quality issues in Idaho. Ara discussed the “keep out” mentality in terms management within stream protection zones. IDL’s role is to promote active management.

Ara reviewed the rule on retention of hardwood shrubs, grasses, to provide effective shade in Class I and Class II streams and the standing tree retention rule. Ara discussed examples of unsatisfactory-condition inspections. There has been some push-back from industry on this and a recommendation to change the retention rule. The rule change proposal was eventually rescinded, but an agency-internal field audit was subsequently undertaken. Audit results show good compliance with the rule, although burning around steep-sided SPZs has presented challenges to forest managers. As a result, internal IDL efforts will ensure coordination between FPA inspectors and fire managers following burn operations near the SPZ. Results of the audit will be posted on the IDL website

## **Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources Update – Dave Stephenson**

Dave Stephenson provided a review of the assessment and resource strategies. The resource strategy will look at how IDL programs can benefit and align with others to respond within specific threat and benefit areas. Dave indicated smaller priority areas have been identified in the resource strategy for a total of 14 (high and very-high) priority landscape areas. Work continues to look at an inventory of plans, agencies, organizations, and collaborative groups within priority areas. After the rough draft is completed and posted to SAFR website on or about April 20, 2010, input from IFSAC members will be sought. . Dave asked the committee members to pay particular attention to chapters 3 and 4.

***FOLLOW-UP ITEM:*** On April 21, 2010, Dave Stephenson advised the committee that the Response Strategy Core Team adopted a new approach to the draft strategy, necessitating a delay in delivery of the strategy for IFSAC comments until the **first week in May 2010**. There will be a comment period of approximately two weeks once the draft becomes available.

## **State & Private Forestry Competitive Grants/Stimulus Grants Update – Mary Fritz**

***Competitive Grants:*** Mary provided an overview of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Canopy Analysis project, Facilitate Forest Management Activities over Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer project, the Silver Valley Ecological Restoration & Economic Development project, and the Grimes-Moores Creek project.

**Stimulus Grants:** Wildfire mitigation fire projects are underway in four North Idaho counties, as well as Forestry Assistance projects in Ada, Bonner, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties.

**2010 Competitive Grants Awarded:** The *Ties to the Land* Project is a joint Idaho/California/Oregon/Washington project. The Technology Transfer Grant is also a joint project by Idaho/Alaska/Oregon/Washington and will link forestry web-pages and networks.

**2011 Competitive Grant Application Process:** The strategy this year is to look at prioritization within the SAFR and response strategy on which to base Idaho's applications. Currently, Idaho is in discussion with Wyoming, Colorado, Montana and Utah regarding invasive species control associated with firewood transport. Mary reported that FFY2011 competitive grant applications are due at the end of September 2010. Mary welcomes any ideas, proposals or existing projects that will help meet response strategy goals. IDL will have a Request for Proposals (RFP) out in June or July.

Frank Gariglio presented a handout on various 2008 Farm Bill programs that can be printed and used as promotional material to forest landowners by specific groups like IDL. This may be something to consider for utilizing grant funds to promote landowner education.

#### **Other Business**

##### **IFSAC Nominating Committee – Kirk David**

Kirk reminded members to be aware that in Spring 2011, the Chair will appoint a nominating committee to bring forth nominations at the Fall 2011 meeting.

##### **Future Activities & Roles of IFSAC – Committee**

Ara Andrea explained that the Bureau of Forestry Assistance needs help from IFSAC members to provide ideas (their own and of the groups they represent) on how best to participate in the Redesign effort, especially with competitive grant projects. Future competitive grant work will need to go through the RFP process and, to accomplish this, requires input and ideas from committee members. The committee discussed whether group or individual responses would be more appropriate for the response strategy draft. Dave indicated that either would work, but he'd like a group response. Craig Foss suggested the committee find two or three members that are really interested in the strategy and can devote time to a committee response. Mary Fritz reported that she needs IFSAC's competitive grant recommendations by July 2010. Discussion followed regarding alignment of the MAG priorities and the response strategy along with any new ideas. Dave Stephenson commented IFSAC is the sort of group he'd like to see come together to look across the different issues and suggest projects.

Discussion returned to the S&PF Program Review where an opportunity was identified for the Stewardship Program (through IFSAC) to "(w)ork with the State Forester and State Conservationist to establish a subcommittee of Forestry as part of the NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee" (STAC).

A MOTION by Serena Carlson for the four STAC members serving on the IFSAC Committee (Ara Andrea, Kirk David, Tom Davis, and John DeGroot) and Frank Gariglio to form a group to go before the Idaho State Conservationist as the (NRCS-STAC) Forestry Subcommittee, seconded by Dee Sessions, unanimously approved.

A MOTION by Kirk David to adjourn meeting.

ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted by Suzie Jude.

## LIST OF ATTENDEES

Gary Hess, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Ponderosa Office
Robert Barkley, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Ponderosa Office
John DeGroot, member	Nez Perce Tribe
Serena Carlson, member	Intermountain Forest Association
Robyn Miller, member (Vice-Chair)	The Nature Conservancy
Oscar Baumhoff, member (Chair)	Idaho Forest Owners Association
Craig Foss, ex-officio	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene
G. Kirk David, member	Idaho Tree Farm
Dee Sessions, member	USDA – Forest Service, State & Private Forestry
Edward Schneider, member	North Idaho Forestland Owner
Tom Davis, member	Consulting Forester
Mike Wolcott, member	Consulting Forester
Mark Benson, guest	Potlatch Corporation
Ara Andrea, member (Secretary)	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene
Suzie Jude, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene
Frank Gariglio, member	USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
David Stephenson, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene
Mary Fritz, guest	Idaho Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene